Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TBIO SENV PFOR LA US

SUBJECT: LAETRILE, TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL ACT

REFS: A) STATE 49069, B) STATE 49302

- 1. WE CONTINUE TO RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS ADDRESSED TO ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS ASKING US TO APPROACH HOST GOVERNMENT ON VARIOUS MATTERS OF WORLDWIDE INTEREST. LATEST SUCH INSTRUCTIONS IN REFTELS CALLED FOR US TO APPROACH LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES ON USE OF LAETRILE AND TO INFORM HOST GOVERNMENT ABOUT PUBLIC MEETING IN US REGARDING TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL ACT.
- 2. AS WE HAVE POINTED OUT IN PREVIOUS CABLES REPLYING TO SIMILAR CIRCULAR INSTRUCTIONS, THIS EMBASSY HAS ACCESS ONLY TO FOREIGN MINISTRY AND NOT TO OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN THIS NEW COMMUNIST COUNTRY. MOREOVER, OUR RELATIONS EVEN WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY ARE MINIMAL AND CONCERNED ALMOST ENTIRELY WITH BILATERAL US-LAO RELATIONS.
- 3. EVEN IF WE DID ASK FOREIGN MINISTRY OR WERE ABLE TO CONTACT OFFICIALS OF OTHER MINISTRIES ON VARIOUS SUBJECTS, WE DOUBT VERY MUCH THAT THEY WOULD HAVE ANY MEANINGUFUL RESPONSES TO PROVIDE US. LPDR IS A VERY UNDEVELOPED COUNTRY WITH FEW TRAINED PERSONNEL AND WE CONFIDENTIAL

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STRONGLY DOUBT THAT THEY HAVE THE EXPERTISE OR TIME TO DOVOTE ATTENTION TO RELATIVELY SOPHISTICATED SUBJECTS OF THE KINDS MENTIONED IN REFTELS.

4. BESIDES, EVEN IF COMMUNIST LAO GOVERNMENT DID HAVE VIEWS ON SUCH MATTERS, OUR PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IN TRYING TO DEAL WITH IT ON SUBJECT OF WORLDWIDE INTEREST INDICATES THAT

IT WOULD BE UNWILLING IN MOST CASES TO DISCUSS ITS VIEWS WITH AMERICAN OFFICIALS.

5. FOR THESE REASONS WE DO NOT PLAN TO APPROACH HOST GOVERNMENT REGARDING LAETRILE AND TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL ACT, AS REQUESTED REFTELS, UNLESS DEPARTMENT SPECIFICALLY INSTRUCTS US TO DO SO. CORCORAN

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